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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1 and 28 so that the claims read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A disposable undergarment comprising:

a front body panel comprising a pair of opposite laterally spaced first side edges, a first waist edge and a first crotch edge longitudinally spaced from said first waist edge;

a rear body panel comprising a pair of opposite laterally spaced second side edges, a second waist edge and a second crotch edge longitudinally spaced from said second waist edge, wherein said first and second crotch edges are longitudinally spaced from each other so as to form a gap therebetween with said first and second crotch edges being free of any direct connection therebetween, wherein said first crotch edge of said front body panel does not overlie said rear body panel and said ~~rear~~ second crotch edge of said rear body panel does not overlie said front body panel, and wherein at least one of said first and second crotch edges comprises at least one longitudinally extending slit formed therein; and

a crotch member connected to said front and rear body panels and covering said at least one slit.

2. (Previously Presented) A disposable undergarment comprising:

a front body panel comprising a pair of opposite laterally spaced first side edges, a first waist edge and a first crotch edge longitudinally spaced from said first waist edge;

a rear body panel comprising a pair of opposite laterally spaced second side edges, a second waist edge and a second crotch edge longitudinally spaced from said second waist edge, wherein said first and second crotch edges are longitudinally